

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
February 4, 2010  
Room 415, State Capitol Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair  
Sen. Brent Goodfellow  
Rep. Roger Barrus  
Rep. Jack Draxler  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Christine Watkins  
Rep. Bill Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. David Hinkins

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Sen. Stowell called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

**Presentation on Prairie Dogs: Luke Zitting**

Rep. Tim Cosgrove introduced Luke and Paul Zitting who are students in his district. Luke delivered a presentation depicting the plight of the prairie dog. He commented on the need to preserve the prairie dog because of its place in history and its importance to other species. He requested the committee tell people to be more kind in wildlife management plans.

**Bison Sight Ability and Numbers in the Henry Mountains: Division of Wildlife Resources Presentation**

Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, reviewed a handout "Bison in the Henry Mountains" which details bison research and population on the Henry Mountains. Director Karpowitz responded to questions from committee members. David Brinkerhoff who has livestock interests on the Henry Mountains, spoke to concerns regarding bison on the winter range and the need to address underlying range problems. Stanley Wood, Wayne County Commissioner, rancher and member of the Henry Mountains Grazers Association, spoke to management issues of the bison. Paul W. Pace, USDA, FSA, Wayne County, voiced his concern over bison ranging habits. He affirmed his commitment to work with DWR.

**Division of Wildlife Resources: Analyst Presentation**

The Analyst discussed the document, Wildlife Resources Operations, Budget Brief. The Division of Wildlife Resources manages all fish and wildlife species, regulates hunting, fishing and trapping, and conducts non-consumptive activities. The mission of the Division is to serve the people of Utah as trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife.

The Analyst reviewed the Issues and Recommendations section of the Budget Brief. The Habitat Council is required to advise the Director of DWR on habitat issues and recommend uses of monies from the Wildlife Habitat restricted fund. For FY 2010 and FY 2011, the Council has recommended over 70 new projects, a list of which was provided to the committee, and the Division is requesting additional funding. The Analyst recommended the Legislature provide the following appropriations for habitat improvement from the GFR-Wildlife Habitat restricted fund: (1) \$300,000 one time for FY 2010, and (2) \$500,000 ongoing for FY 2011.

The Division is requesting additional appropriation to cover increased fees charged by credit card companies and increased online license and permit purchases. The Analyst recommended the Legislature provide the following appropriations from the GFR-Wildlife Resources restricted account: (1) \$374,200 one time for FY 2010, and (2) \$374,200 ongoing for FY 2011.

The Analyst reviewed Wildlife Resources line item Budget Briefs for Capital, License Reimbursement, Contributed Research, Cooperative Agreements and Predator Control. He clarified fee changes in the Wildlife Resources Fee, Issue Brief.

### **Agency Presentation**

Director Karpowitz reviewed a slide presentation detailing the importance of wildlife to the state of Utah. He touched upon the economic value of wildlife in Utah, major accomplishments in 2009, and budget reduction impacts both current and anticipated.

### **Division of Water Resources: Analyst Presentation**

The Analyst discussed Water Resources, Budget Brief. The Division of Water Resources is considered to be the water resource authority for the state, assuring the orderly planning, development and protection of Utah's water. It does this through conservation, planning and financial assistance programs. The Budget Brief contains information for two line items - Water Resources Operations and Revolving Construction Fund. Funding for the third line item, Conservation and Development Fund, was eliminated by the 2009 Legislature.

Stanley Wood, Wayne County Commissioner, was invited to speak to the committee regarding the importance of a reservoir project for Wayne County.

### **Agency Response**

Dennis Strong, Director, Division of Water Resources, introduced the board members in attendance. The Division plans, conserves, develops and protects Utah's water resources. He commented on the importance of water to the state of Utah and briefed the committee on the status of the Colorado River allocation. Eric Millis, Deputy Director, gave an update on the Lake Powell pipeline project indicating progress and anticipating a completion date of 2020.

Director Strong focused on a document detailing water use in the state. Utahns are responding to the water conservation message. As a state, we are exceeding the anticipated goal of 25% water reduction by 2050 and that trend is expected to continue. Director Strong summarized the snow report, precipitation report and reservoir storage. A discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair

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Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair